completed by the Company.

Utilisation of gas found in the wells of Tripura

2094. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has found gas in various wells of Tripura;,

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said gas is being flared out even though it was discovered long ago; and

(c) if so, what step's have been taken by Government to utilise this gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC have discovered natural gas reserves in Baramura, Gojalia, Rokhia and Agartala Dome structures in Tripura. Presence of gas has also been indicated in the wells drilled on Tichna structure.

(b) No gas in commercial quantities is being flarec-, in Tripura.

(c) Natural gas is being supplied to the following gas based power projects in the State:—

(i) Baramura Power Plant-0.13MMCMD

(ii) Rokhia Power Plant-0.05MMCMD

In addition about 0.015 MMCMD of gas is also being supplied to Brick Kilns and other small consumers.

Availability of gas has also been indicated for the following projects:

(i) 500 MW NTPC Power Plant

(ii) 75 MW Power Plant at Rokhia

(iii) Agartala. city distribution system

New Industries for the backward and the 'No Industry' Districts in Himachal Pradesh

2095. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government- have identified the backward and 'No Industry' Districts in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any plan to set up new industries in those districts; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The districts of Chamba, Kangra, Kulu, Kinaur and Lahaul & Spiti have been categorised as No-Industry Districts in Himachal Pradesh and the districts of Solan, Sirmur, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Mandi, Simla -and Una have been categorised as Special Region Districts in the State.

(b) and (c) The industrialisation of a State is primarily the responsibility of *the* State Government (concerned. However, in order to promote industrialisation and reduce regional imbalances, the Central Government offers a number of incentives such as priority in the grant of industrial licences, concessional finance etc., to entrepreneurs setting up industries in centrally declared backward areas. During the last three years, the following Letters of Intent (LOI) and Industrial Licences (ILS) have been issued to backward areas of Himachal Pradesh:—

Year	LOI	ILS
1987	22	3
1988	25	2
1989	17	4

Setting up of new cement plants in the country

2096. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 695 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 1990 and
state:

* (a) how many new cement plants have been set up in the country during the last ten years, with the-names of places where these plants have been set up;

(b) what is the production capacity, the target of production of each plant for the year 1989-90 and also the actual production recorded; and

(c) what is the rate of growth as well as rate of consumption of cement during the last one year as compared to the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The required information is given in the statement enclosed f *See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 101].

(c) The rate of growth in cement production during 1988-89 was 11.87% and during 1989-90 was 2.72% over the corresponding previous year. Consumption has grown similarly.

Memorandum from ASSOCHAM for the promotion of Industry

2097. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in a memorandum dated the 13th May, 1990 has urged Government to take various steps to promote industry while ensuring a balanced industrial development of the country;

(b) if so, what specific proposals were made in the memorandum; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) have informed that they did not submit any memorandum to the Government on 13th May, 1990. The ASSOCHAM have, however, stated that a publication titled 'Deregulation: Forward March' was submitted (date not mentioned) by them to all Ministers dealing with economic issues as also to the different Secretaries of the Government of India. In this publication the ASSOCHAM, while taking note of liberalisation measures taken by Government, have observed that in aggregate terms, industrial sector performed better in 80's in general and late 80's in particular, compared to 70's and 60's. However, to further promote the Industry, the ASSOCHAM have made the following main recommendations in this publication:—

There is need to raise the threshold limit of MRTP houses to Rs. 500 crores. The rules and regulations for substantial expansion/product diversification of MRTP companies and for Non-MRTP/ Non-FERA companies should be simplified to avoid delays. Foreign equity should be allowed to be raised to 51% from the present 40%. Foreign equity upto 40% should be automatically permitted. For MRTP and FERA companies there should be a list of industries to which entry is banned and there should be freedom regarding the rest. Upper limit for non-MRTP/non-FERA companies should be raised to Rs. 75 crores on a uniform basis. Licensing should be made automatic if an undertaking's investment has an import content of less than 15% or there is a value addition of atleast 25 per cent. The concept of single window clearance should be adopted and put in practice. DICs should be made single window clearance centres for -small scale units at the district level. An undertaking may be considered dominant, only if capacity or actual production or market share is more than one-third of the total and not one-fourth as at, present. Sections 21, 22 & 23 of MRTP Act should be deleted to speed up growth. To encourage units to reach economic size, dominant undertakings should have assets not less than Rs. 25 crores. Sick or non-viable units should be allowed to exist.